

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 01606 081712Z  
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AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS LUSAKA 1606

FOR IOP/M  
FOR IBS/PA, PASS IPS  
STATE FOR AF/E AND AF/S  
NAIROBI FOR VOA CHANCELLOR

E.O. 11652: N/A  
SUBJ: EDITORIAL COMMENT

"DESPITE MANY TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS, THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH TODAY STANDS FIRM, STRONG AND SOLID," SAYS THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL IN AN EDITORIAL COMMENT TODAY. THE NEWSPAPER, WHOSE EDITORIAL COMMENT IS BASED ON THE LONDON CONFERENCE OF THE COMMONWEALTH, AS DOES THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA, OBSERVES THAT THE COMMONWEALTH IS ONE ORGANIZATION WHOSE SUCCESS STORY HAS BEEN BUILT ON UNITY IN DIVERSITY WITH GREATNESS OF HEART AMONG ITS MEMBERS TO BE ABLE TO AGREE OR DISAGREE ON MANY ISSUES.

"AS IDI AMIN MADES A BUFFON OF HIMSELF WITH HIS PLANE LOOKING FOR AN AIRPORT TO LAND HIM, THE MEETING TAKES PLACE AT A TIME WHEN THE WORLD HAS BEEN LOOKING TO DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN THE WEST IN PARTICULAR TO HELP IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES," THE PAPER NOTES.

IN ADDITION, SAYS THE MAIL, THE MEETING ALSO TAKES PLACE AT  
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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 01606 081712Z

A TIME WHEN THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS USING ITS WORLD ECONOMIC POWER TO SPREAD THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS TO OTHER PARTS OF THE GLOBE WHERE, IN THE WORDS OF THE PAPER, THESE ARE "BEING TRAMPLED UPON."

IN THE VIEW OF THE PAPER, THE MOST IMPORTANT ITEM ON THE AGENDA OF COMMONWEALTH LEADERS' SUMMIT SHOULD BE THE CONCERN OF THE

COMMONWEALTH OVER THE PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE IN ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA.

"WHAT HAS MADE THE COMMONWEALTH HOLD TOGETHER IN THE PAST IS THE FACT THAT ALL MEMBERS HAVE AGREED TO TREAT EACH OTHER AS EQUALS," THE MAIL SAYS.

IT ADDS THAT WHAT HAS BROUGHT MISERY TO SOUTHERN AFRICA TOGETHER WITH THE THREAT OF RACIAL CONFLICT IS THAT WHITES IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE BLACKS AS THEIR EQUALS, LET ALONE THEIR BETTERS IN SOME CASES.

THE DAILY MAIL EDITORIAL GOES ON TO SAY THAT THE COMMONWEALTH HAS A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN BRINGING WHAT IT CALLS "THE GAP OF HATRED" NOW BEING, OR SOON TO BE BUILT UP AS THE RESULT OF THE INTENSIFICATION OF THE WAR.

SYAS THE MAIL: "DESPITE THE FACT THAT WE ARE FAR FROM PEACE IN ZIMBABWE, THERE IS NO REASON WHY THIS CONFIDENCE SHOULD NOT START NOW LOOKING INTO WAYS AND MEANS OF HOW THE VARIOUS RACES IN ZIMBABWE WOULD HAVE TO BE BROUGHT TOGETHER TO WORK AS A TEAM IN A NON-RACIAL ZIMBABWE."

THE PAPER FURTHER STATES THAT THERE IS NO REASON WHY THE COMMONWEALTH SHOULD NOT USE ITS OWN EXAMPLE TO AGREE OR DISAGREE IN EXTINGUISHING THE FIRES OF HATRED NOW BEING LIGHTED IN RHODESIA. IT SAYS THE COMMONWEALTH CAN PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN RHODESIA "IF IT TOOK PRACTICAL STEPS TODAY AND NOT TOMORROW TO BRING DOWN THE ONE IMPEDIMENT TO MAJORITY RULE-- SMITH."

CONCLUDES THE DAILY MAIL: "FREEDOM FIGHTERS ARE DOING SO THROUGH THE INTENSIFICATION OF THE WAR. THE COMMONWEALTH LEADERS CAN DO SO BY BACKING THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS WITH MONEY, MILITARY UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 LUSAKA 01606 081712Z

GEAR AND MORAL SUPPORT."

THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA EDITORIAL ALSO DWELLING ON THE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE, SAYS IT WOULD BE "TRAGIC" IF ANY OTHER SUBJECT APART FROM THE RHODESIAN AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES WERE ALLOWED TO DOMINATE THE CONFERENCE.

BUT IT GOES ON TO ADD: "THERE SHOULD CERTAINLY BE A FAIR AIRING OF VIEWS ON HUMAN RIGHTS. THE MURDERER IDI AMIN SHOULD BE ROUNDLY CONDEMNED FOR HIS CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY."

THE PAPER ALSO URGES MEMBERS TO SPEAK WITH FRANKNESS ON THE NEW ECONOMIC ORDER IN VIEW OF WHAT IT SAYS WAS THE "RECENT FAILURE OF THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE" MEETING IN PARIS.

THE TIMES FEELS THAT AN ATTEMPT WILL ALSO BE MADE TO DEVOTE A LOT OF TIME TO THE SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS, WITH BRITAIN TAKING THE VIEW THAT IF MR. VORSTER AND MR. SMITH OF SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA RESPECTIVELY, DESERVE TO BE CONDEMNED FOR THEIR RACISM, AMIN SHOULD NOT BE SPARED JUST BECAUSE HE IS BLACK. IN THE OPINION OF THE PAPER, THAT SUBJECT SHOULD NOT TAKE UP AS MUCH TIME AS THE RHODESIAN ISSUE BECAUSE THERE IS UNANIMITY ON THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE MURDERS BEING COMMITTED

BY THE AMIN REGIME.

EDITORIALIZED THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA: "THERE IS NO UNANIMITY ON  
RHODESIA AND UNLESS THE CONFERENCE

CAN COME UP WITH CONCRETE

PROPOSALS TO END THE SMITH REBELLION, IT WILL TURN OUT TO HAVE  
BEEN AS POINTLESS AS THE SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS".

NOTING THAT THE BRITISH ARE CELEBRATING THE QUEEN'S SILVER  
JUBILEE AND ARE THEREFORE PRE-OCCUPIED WITH "MERRY-MAKING",  
THEY MAY BE "SUDDENLY HARD OF HEARING ON THE SUBJECT OF  
RHODESIA.

"AN EXTRA EFFORT WILL HAVE TO BE MADE TO DETRACT THEIR ATTENTION  
FROM THE CLINKING OF CHAMPAGNE GLASSES," THE TIMES EDITORIAL  
SAYS. ITEM USIS LUSAKA.

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